

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet folding apparatus for folding the sheet by nipping and conveying a sheet by a pair of ~~18820~~ folding rollers and, wherein at least one of the pair of folding rollers has large-diameter portion and small-diameter portion along an axis thereof. *via phone
24826*
2. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a large-diameter portion for nipping and conveying the sheet is provided at a sheet convey center portion of the roller. *1.2-4*
3. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the large-diameter portion is provided at the sheet convey center portion such that a width of the large-diameter portion in the axis direction, which is provided at the sheet convey center portion of the folding roller is substantially 1/2 of a minimum width of a sheet size foldable in the sheet folding apparatus. *1.2-4*
4. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller is positioned outside a movable range of a maximum-size sheet in the apparatus.
5. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim

1. wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers. *F. 1, 384*
- 5 6. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.
- 10 7. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined gap between the rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip. *F. 3, 84*
- 15 8. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined gap between the rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip.
- 20 9. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller is tapered.
- EN6* 10. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller includes a taper.

11. An image forming apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a sheet, sheet conveying means for conveying the sheet on which the image is formed by said image forming means, and sheet folding processing means for folding the conveyed sheet, including a sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 as said sheet folding processing means.